

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 31 OCT 49

SUBJECT Production Bottlenecks in the Iron Ore Mines

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. *FLD*
(LISTED BELOW) *648*

DATE OF IN

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IS ANY WAY TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

1. Diesel Locomotives

A total of 70 Diesel-type underground locomotives are used in the Czechoslovak iron ore mines (Zelezovrudna Ban, NP). Forty of these are of an old design and have been in use for 15 years. All 70 are considered uneconomical to maintain, and there are no spare parts available. Home-produced spare parts are costly, inaccurate in design, and of poor quality. The greater part of these locomotives are consequently immobile. The gauges of these locomotives vary between 400 and 600 mm., and therefore they are not uniformly interchangeable between mines.

2. Pneumatic Drills

Out of a total of 1,100 pneumatic drills at present in use, some 5 percent lack water sprayers (attachments for keeping down dust while operating). Use of these drills without sprayers causes silicosis of the lungs, and some 30 percent of the scheduled manshifts are lost through this. Fear of this disease and the general lack of health precautions are greatly hindering further recruitment. Loss of output through silicosis is 15 to 20 percent (sic). A deputation of miners to Dr. Soltesz of Bratislava asked for 500 drills fitted with sprayers. They were promised 200, to be purchased from the USA at a cost of 100,000 dollars, but the Czech Government decided that this amount could not be spared.

3. Ball Bearings

The ball-bearing situation in the mines is critical. The general management of the Czech mines has ordered all stocks of ball bearings held in mining maintenance stocks to be assembled at a central dump for redistribution, leaving the mines with a minimum of essential reserves.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB																		
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR																			

CONFIDENTIAL

Document No. *5*
 No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth.: HR 10-2
 Date: *260578* By *[Signature]*

50X1-HUM